(c) whether the Tobacco Board will take steps to implement an attractive Crop Insurance Scheme for Virginia tobacco farmers; and

(d) if so, the details of steps proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In it's Budget Estimate proposals for 2007-08 Tobacco Board has made a provision of Rs.2.50 crores for extending help to tobacco farmers build "Model Storage Facilities" under the programme "Improving of Curing Practices". Under this programme, the Board proposes to arrange medium term loans to the farmers at competitive rate of interest besides extending financial assistance (subsidy) from 15% to 20% by the Board. Individual farmers can also grade their tobacco in the infrastructure created as model storage facility.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Status of approved SEZs

1659. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have written to 50 developers of SEZs, which already have formal approval, and queried them about their status;

(b) whether it is a fact that these 50 SEZs must complete their work in six month;

(c) if so, the names of these specific 50 SEZs their location, the names of developers and the land area of each of these SEZs;

(d) whether Government would grant some funds for relief for the displaced people; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No such communication has been made.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal.

Investment by PIOs in aviation sector

1660. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to media report captioned, "PIOs will get more; benefit";

(b) if so, whether Government would consider permitting seriously Persons of Indian Origin to invest upto 100 per cent in aviation sector, including domestic airlines; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In terms of the existing regulatory frame-work specific to the Civil Aviation sector, Persons of Indian Origin are allowed to invest in the equity stake.

Reopening of ancient trade links with China

1661. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Arunachal Pradesh Government propose to reopen ancient trade links with China from certian strategic locations;

(b) if so, the details and the status thereof;

(c) whether such type of trade routes are also proposed to be opened with Myanmar and Bhutan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how far this would help to improve the economy of the NE region?